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## JAPAN.

*Except dysentery, sanitary conditions good.*

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, September 13, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that, save the continuance of epidemic dysentery, of which I am unable at present to forward statistics, the sanitary condition of Japan is good. Since my last report, of September 4, with the exception of a case of suspected plague which was returned from Hamamatsu, in Shidzuoka Ken, between Osaka and Yokohama, but which, however, appears to have been mistakenly diagnosed, neither plague nor cholera has been detected in Japan proper.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Further concerning the case of plague on the steamship Coptic.*

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, September 13, 1900.

SIR: In connection with the case of plague among the passengers of steamship *Coptic*, at Kobe, upon her outward voyage from San Francisco to Hongkong, which I reported under date of August 31, I would add that farther investigation has convinced me that the case was, undoubtedly, one of the true bubo-pneumonic pest. I have also learned that, after the removal of the patient to the quarantine hospital, upon cleaning the compartment which he had occupied, 3 dead rats were found, evidently deceased but a few hours, and that in these the plague bacillus was demonstrated. The closest search, however, failed to discover more dead rats in any part of the ship, either then or after discharging in Hongkong. It looks, therefore, as though the rats found dead were infected by the sputa of the human victim, rather than that the disease in him was derived from these vermin. Altogether the case suggests, as I said in my former report, an infection by effects.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

## NICARAGUA.

*Report from Bluefields—Fruit port.*

BLUEFIELDS, NICARAGUA, September 26, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following weekly report: Two steamships have been inspected and cleared for New Orleans, the *Esther*, with 5 passengers and 8 pieces of disinfected baggage, and the *Alabama*, with no passengers. The passengers on the *Esther* were Nicaraguan diplomatic officials on their way to their posts of duty, and the steamship company gave them passage, knowing the probability of their detention by the Louisiana State board of health. Copies of certificates given them and to masters of ships are inclosed. Two deaths were reported in Bluefields for the week ended September 23, viz, 1 native, adult, of nephritis, and 1 native, adult, of bilious fever. The sanitary condition of this port and vicinity continues good.

Respectfully,

D. W. GOODMAN,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*